CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. An enclosure for an object, the enclosure comprising:

a plurality of housing pieces that when assembled to one another enclose the object to a desired extent, each individual housing piece meeting at least one other of the plurality along meeting edges; and

at least one locking tab disposed along a first meeting edge of a first housing piece and attached to the first housing piece by a connecting region narrower than the maximum width of the locking tab it attaches and that flexes resiliently;

a socket for each locking tab, the socket opening onto a second meeting edge of a second housing piece and having a shape that exactly envelopes a corresponding locking tab and its connecting region;

each locking tab including a tapered edge disposed opposite the connecting region of the locking tab and disposed on what will be the interior surface of the enclosure when the plurality of housing-pieces is assembled; and

each socket including a shelf disposed to overlap at least a portion of the tapered region of its corresponding locking tab when the locking tab occupies the socket.

2. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein there are at least two locking tabs disposed along the first meeting edge and two corresponding sockets disposed along the second meeting edge, and further comprising:

a stiffening tab projecting from the first meeting edge and located between two locking tabs, the stiffening tab being of reduced thickness so as to have an exterior surface that lies beneath the outer surface of the enclosure; and

a recess in the interior surface of the second housing piece and that extends to the second meeting edge and receives the stiffening tab.

3. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein there are at least one locking tab and one socket adjacently disposed along the first meeting edge and a corresponding socket and a corresponding tab disposed along the second meeting edge, and further comprising:

a stiffening tab projecting from the first meeting edge and located between a locking tab and its adjacent socket, the stiffening tab being of reduced thickness so as to have an exterior surface that lies beneath the outer surface of the enclosure; and

a recess in the interior surface of the second housing piece and that extends to the second meeting edge and receives the stiffening tab.

4. An enclosure as in claim 1 further comprising a recessed region on the outer surface of the assembled enclosure that encompasses at least one pair of adjoining meeting edges, and that further comprises an adhesive label affixed to and within the recessed region.

5. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein the plurality of housing-pieces comprises identical housing pieces.

6. An enclosure as in claim 5 wherein the plurality of housing-pieces exhibit complementary self-symmetry when rotated about a longitudinal axis.

7. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein the plurality of housing pieces is two identical housing pieces, the enclosure encloses a chassis for an electronic apparatus and further comprising an aperture that interlocks with a strain relief for a cable.

8. An enclosure as in claim 7 wherein the enclosure and the chassis are for an active probe.

9. An enclosure for an object, the enclosure comprising:

a single housing piece that when assembled to itself encloses the object to a desired extent, the housing piece having at least two meeting edges; and

at least one locking tab disposed along a first meeting edge and attached to the housing piece by a connecting region narrower than the maximum width of the locking tab it attaches and that flexes resiliently;

a socket for each locking tab, the socket opening onto a second meeting edge and having a shape that exactly envelopes a corresponding locking tab and its connecting region;

each locking tab including a tapered edge disposed opposite the connecting region of the locking tab and disposed on what will be the interior surface of the enclosure when the plurality of housing-pieces is assembled; and

each socket including a shelf disposed to overlap at least a portion of the tapered region of its corresponding locking tab when the locking tab occupies the socket.

10. An enclosure as in claim 9 wherein there are at least two locking tabs disposed along the first meeting edge and two corresponding sockets disposed along the second meeting edge, and further comprising:

a stiffening tab projecting from the first meeting edge and located between two locking tabs, the stiffening tab being of reduced thickness so as to have an exterior surface that lies beneath the outer surface of the enclosure; and

a recess in the interior surface of the second housing piece and that extends to the second meeting edge and receives the stiffening tab.

11. An enclosure as in claim 9 wherein there are at least one locking tab and one socket adjacently disposed along the first meeting edge and a corresponding socket and a corresponding tab disposed along the second meeting edge, and further comprising:

a stiffening tab projecting from the first meeting edge and located between a locking tab and its adjacent socket, the stiffening tab being of reduced thickness so as to have an exterior surface that lies beneath the outer surface of the enclosure; and

a recess in the interior surface of the second housing piece and that extends to the second meeting edge and receives the stiffening tab.

12. An enclosure as in claim 9 further comprising a recessed region on the outer surface of the assembled enclosure that encompasses at least one pair of adjoining meeting edges, and that further comprises an adhesive label affixed to and within the recessed region.